

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A key for operating a security fastener having a lock pattern includes a retractable key pattern. The key pattern has an operational extension position in which the key pattern is enabled for substantial engagement with a security fastener having a matching lock pattern, thereby allowing operation of the matching security fastener. The key pattern is also capable of retreating a non-operational retraction position in which the key pattern is not capable of substantial engagement with a security fastener having a non-matching lock pattern, thereby preventing operation of the non-matching security fastener.